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CARLTON C. CURTIS.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

MARCH 28, 1906

The Club met at the Museum Building of the New York Botanical Garden, at 3:30 P. M. In the absence of President Rusby, Dr. C. C. Curtis was called to the chair.

Thirteen persons were present.

After the reading and approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting the following names were proposed for membership :

Mr. Alfred Cuthbert, Augusta, Ga. ; Mr. S. M. Tracy, Biloxi, Miss. ; Mrs. J. Newlin Trainer, 311 West 111th Street, New York City.

On behalf of the committee appointed at the last meeting to arrange for a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the New York Botanical Garden, Dr. W. A. Murrill reported progress and briefly outlined the nature of the proposed celebration.

Professor Underwood was delegated to represent the Club at Philadelphia in April at the coming bi-centennial of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, in place of President Rusby, who resigned at the preceding meeting.

A communication was read from Dr. N. L. Britton, as secretary of the Council of the Scientific Alliance, outlining the proposition to bring about a closer relationship between the special scientific societies composing the Scientific Alliance with the New York Academy of Sciences. It was urged that at least two of the delegates of the Club be present at a meeting of the Council of the Scientific Alliance to discuss this topic further. This meeting will be held some time in April, 1906, the exact date to be announced later.

Dr. W. A. Murrill proposed the following amendment to the constitution :

“The number of honorary members of the Club shall not exceed ten, at any one time, and all restrictions as to qualifications shall be removed, except eminence in profession.”

Dr. J. K. Small presented the first paper on the scientific program, on "Additions to the Flora of Florida." Specimens of the surface soil and subsoil, herbarium and alcoholic specimens, maps and photographs illustrated the paper.

The second paper was by Dr. J. H. Barnhart, on "The Dating of Botanical Publications."

Dates of issue of publications have been of more or less interest to bibliographers, but modern biological nomenclature, with priority of publication as one of its fundamental principles, has emphasized to a marked degree the importance of determining accurately the exact time when novelties are placed before the scientific public.

The novice usually accepts without question the date printed on a title-page. Soon, however, he discovers a book with a clear, definite, unmistakable reference to one bearing a later date—perhaps a year or two, possibly many years. Here, then, he has evidence, amounting to convincing proof, that at least one of the books he has been consulting is incorrectly dated; but he may find it difficult to determine which is wrong, and still more difficult to replace the erroneous date by the correct one. Few even of experienced botanists realize what a large percentage of the literature of our science is labeled with misleading dates.

The purpose of the paper was to call attention to some of the causes of this state of affairs, to furnish examples of various classes of erroneous dating, and to mention certain precautions the observance of which will reduce the percentage of errors in the citation of dates.

Many publications were shown to illustrate the paper.

C. STUART GAGER,  
*Secretary.*

APRIL 10, 1906

The meeting of April 10, 1906, was held at the American Museum of Natural History, with President Rusby in the chair. Ten persons were present.

After the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, Dr. Murrill presented a report of progress from the com-

mittee on arrangements for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the commencement of work in the development of the New York Botanical Garden.

President Rusby, in the absence of the chairman of the field committee, briefly outlined the program for the spring excursions. Dr. D. T. MacDougal was appointed by the president as second representative of the Club at the coming celebration, at Philadelphia, of the birth of Benjamin Franklin.

Mr. Percy Wilson was appointed chairman of the field committee in place of Mr. Eugene Smith, resigned.

The Honorable Addison Brown was appointed one of the delegates to the Council of the Scientific Alliance, and Mrs. N. L. Britton was appointed a member of the committee to arrange for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the commencement of work in the development of the New York Botanical Garden, in place of Dr. D. T. MacDougal, resigned.

The scientific program was an illustrated lecture, by Dr. Henry Kraemer, of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, on "An Experiment in the Growing of Wild Plants, and a Plea for the Preservation of our Native Woodlands."

The experiments in the growing of wild plants were carried on in what would usually be considered a very unfavorable situation — namely, a narrow strip of ground about 60 feet long and varying from 17 to 31 inches wide on the northern side of a city house where the space between any two houses is not more than 8 feet in width, so that it receives very little direct sunlight. Below the thin coating of sod the substratum is composed mostly of débris from the building operations, such as pieces of tin, bricks, slate and pebbles. For two years an attempt was made to grow grass on this strip, but without success.

In 1903 a number of wild plants, including diminutive trees, small shrubs and perennial herbaceous plants, in all about a hundred species, were added. The plants have been distributed so as to give the best ornamental effect. At intervals of several feet through the middle of the strip the small trees and shrubs and larger herbaceous perennials, as blue cohosh and black snake-root, are planted. Between these are the smaller plants,

the more attractive and those producing the most flowers being near the front, as violets, wild geranium, etc. A few rocks are placed near some of the ferns, columbines, and other plants which seem to prefer a rocky situation. There is a procession of flowers from early spring when the blood-root, hepatics and spring beauties make their appearance, until fall when the asters and other plants are in bloom. Not only is there a succession of flowers, but the foliage is also of interest and beauty. The ferns and blood-root are especially interesting when the leaves are unfolding, and in the late fall the yellow leaves of the spice-bush and tulip-poplar, the red leaves of the maple and dogwood, and also the red berries of the Jack-in-the-pulpit and Solomon's-seal, and the blue berries of the blue cohosh, are very attractive at a time when the flowering season has gone by.

The desirability of preserving individual trees and strips of woodland in the suburbs of cities was considered, and the opinion expressed that if a universal sentiment were created in favor of this, the means would be forthcoming for the purchase and protection of trees and wooded lots. In this connection the statement was made "that there is no item of taxation which the people of London more cheerfully pay than those for the maintenance of small parks."

C. STUART GAGER,  
*Secretary.*

#### NEWS ITEMS

Dr. Frederick DeForest Heald has recently been promoted to the professorship of agricultural botany in the University of Nebraska.

Miss Mary Franklin Barrett (B.L., Smith College, 1901; A.M., Columbia University, 1905) has been appointed an instructor in botany in Wellesley College.

Fred Jay Seaver (M.S., State University of Iowa, 1904), professor of biology in the Iowa Wesleyan University, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, has been appointed university fellow in botany in Columbia University for the year 1906-'07.

Mr. Le Roy Abrams, fellow in botany in Columbia University,